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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

FLOODS AND FORCED CROP COLLECTION
CAUSE WIDESPREAD DIS"RESS IN SOUTH CHINA

Over-zealous and forced collection of tax grain in parts of Kwang-tung Province are blamed for a situation bordering on famine in several areas of the province. Conditions in the Chin-chiang area are reported by the Chung-lien She (pro-KMT) to be worst in 50 years due to monopoly of supplies by the agricultural associations and monopoly of transport facilities by the Coastal Defense Command.

The conditions were worse in the ten hsien immediately surrounding Foochow. Greatest losses were suffered by those who had not yet harvested the early rice, or who had just planted late rice. In and around Foochow the flood rose suddenly in the early hours of the morning making it impossible for the people to save any of their goods. Thousands were drowned. In the Foochow suburbs 80,000 mou of rice land were inundated damaging over 60 percent of the crop.

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The authorities seized all transport facilities for the evacuation of official equipment and the people could find no transport until several days later after the official requirements had been met. The official aid extended then was already too late. One billion yuan in relief funds were issued, but proved very inadequate where 10 million people were destitute. The people were urged to help themselves through production.

A search of the Chinese mainland newspapers [] revealed a story in the Foochow Fukien Jih-pao of 22 July that tended to corroborate the above account with substantial detail. Although no figures were given for depth of water on the level, there was clear indication of widespread inundation.7

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SUMMER GRAIN LEVIES LEAVE PEASANTS SHORT -- Hong Kong, Hsing-tao Jih-pao, 15 Aug 52

According to correspondence from Canton a number of serious difficulties have arisen in connection with the summer grain collection activity in Kwangtung Province. It is reported that many cadres, in their zeal to make an early report, started the collection before the crops were ready and then used force to make the farmers bring in the grain. After the tax and repayments on loans had been collected the farmers have not enough food left to carry them even one month.

Since it is required that all tax grain has to be brought to Canton, there are many losses enroute, some occasioned by the sinking of grain ships.

PEASANTS SUPPLIES DEplete BY TAX COLLECTORS -- Hong Kong, Hsing-tao Jih-pao, 17 Aug 52

Correspondence from Hsi-chiang indicated that in that area of Kwangtung there is a serious rice shortage caused by the fact that the summer tax collectors took all the grain the farmers had. The shortage is reported as more serious than that in the spring.

CHIN-CHIANG AREA AGRICULTURAL CONDITIONS BAD -- Hong Kong, Hsing-tao Jih-pao, 15 Aug 52

According to reports of the Chung-lien She, agricultural operations in the Chin-chiang area of Kwangtung have been in a slump since land reform. Conditions are reported to be the worst in 50 years. Chin-chiang is a rice-short area dependent in large part on imports from other areas. Transport and supplies have been cut off by the requirements of the coastal defense forces. Furthermore, the agricultural associations monopolize exchange. Hence conditions are worse than under the Japanese military occupation.

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